



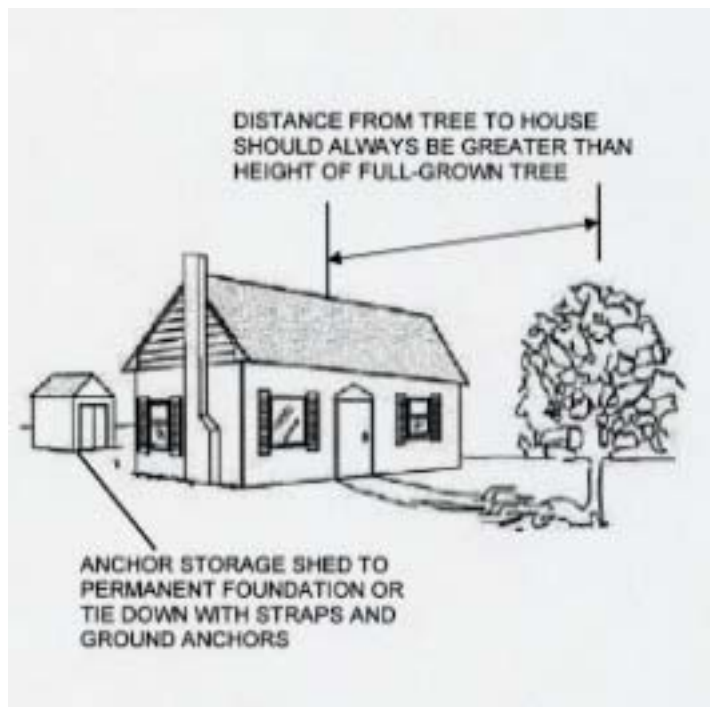
# Protecting Your Property from Wind



## REMOVE TREES AND POTENTIAL WINDBORNE MISSILES

If the area immediately surrounding your house contains trees, outbuildings, trash cans, yard debris, or other materials that can be moved by the wind, your house will be more likely to be damaged during a tornado. The wind can topple trees onto your house and can pick up smaller objects and drive them through windows and glass doors.

You should ensure that all trees are far enough away from your house that they can't fall on it. So the distance between your house and any nearby tree should always be greater than the height the tree will reach when it is fully grown. All storage sheds and other outbuildings should be securely anchored, either to a permanent foundation or with straps and ground anchors. Smaller objects, such as trash cans, barbecue grills, and outdoor furniture should also be anchored or, if you have adequate warning, moved indoors. You should also clear away any debris, such as fallen tree branches.



### Tips

- ✓ Keep these points in mind when you remove trees and potential windborne missiles from around your house:
  - ✓ Removing large trees near your house can be extremely dangerous, for both you and your house, and therefore is a job for a skilled contractor.
  - ✓ The straps and ground anchors used for manufactured homes also can be used to anchor outbuildings, especially small garden sheds, which are usually not placed on a permanent foundation.
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- ✓ You can secure outdoor furniture and barbecue grills by bolting them to decks or patios or by attaching them to ground anchors with cables or chains.
  - ✓ You can secure trash cans with cables or chains attached to ground anchors or to wood posts firmly embedded in the ground. Trash can lids should be tied to cans with cables or chains.